

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 221355Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7947
INFO USERDA HQS, WASHDC
USERDA HQS, GERMANTOWN MD.
AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS LISBON 4965

DEPARTMENT PASS EXIM AND COMMERCE FOR MEPD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, BENC, BEXP, ENRG, PO
SUBJ: MAJOR EXPORT PROJECTS: STATUS OF PROPOSED NUCLEAR
POWER PLANT

REF: (A) LISBON 4380 (B) LISBON 4723 NOTAL

EMBASSY OFFICER MET JULY 21 WITH ROCHA CABRAL (NUCLEAR
PROJECT HEAD) AND EMILIO ROSA (NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE DIRECTOR)
OF ELECTRICIDADE DE PORTUGAL (EDP) - A NEWLY FORMED COMPANY
WHICH ENCOMPASSES CONTINENTAL PORTUGAL'S ELECTRICITY PRODUCING
AND DISTRIBUTING FIRMS, INCLUDING COMPANHIA PORTUGUESA DE
ELECTRICIDADE (CPE) (SEE LISBON 4543 NOTAL). THESE OFFICIALS
PROVIDED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON NUCLEAR POWER
PLANT PROJECT:

A. AUTHORIZATION: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RESOLUTION OF
APRIL 1976 AUTHORIZED CPE (NOW EDP) TO INITIATE PROCESS
FOR NUCLEAR PROJECT, I.E., ARRANGE FOR ENGINEERING
STUDIES AND CALL FOR BIDS ON PROJECT COMPONENTS. HOW-
EVER, GOP STILL MUST GRANT FINAL APPROVAL OF PROJECT.
FINAL APPROVAL MAY BE AFFECTED BY FORTHCOMING GOP DECISION
ON A GLOBAL ENERGY POLICY, IF THIS POLICY IS FORMULATED
BY TIME EDP EVALUATES BIDS AND MAKES ITS RECOMMENDATIONS
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TO GOP (HOPEFULLY IN EARLY 1977).

B. SCHEDULE: SCHEDULE OUTLINED IN REF A HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO SLIP SOMEWHAT. INITIAL LETTERS SOLICITING INTEREST IN BIDDING HAVE BEEN PREPARED, BUT CANNOT BE SENT UNTIL CONCURRENCE OBTAINED FROM INDUSTRIAL POLICY COMMITTEE (COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRIAL ENTITIES). DELAY IN SECURING CONCURRENCE DUE TO "SMALL" DIFFERENCES OF OPINION OVER AMOUNT OF WORK PORTUGUESE CONTRACTORS WILL PERFORM. CABRAL BELIEVES AGREEMENT IMMINENT, AND THAT LETTERS SHOULD BE SENT WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS.

C. NUCLEAR SSS CONTRACT: GE AND WESTINGHOUSE ARE PRIME CONTENDERS. EDP OFFICIALS CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THIS CONTRACT WILL GO TO A FOREIGN FIRM, BUT PORTUGUESE FIRMS EXPECT TO OBTAIN CONSIDERABLE SUBCONTRACTS. ALTHOUGH SOME COMPETITION MAY BE INVOLVED, SUBCONTRACTS ESSENTIALLY WOULD BE PARCELLED OUT TO PORTUGUESE FIRMS.

D. TURBO-GENERATOR CONTRACT: EDP OFFICIALS FEEL THAT NO U.S. FIRMS ARE INTERESTED IN TURBO-GENERATOR COMPONENT OF PROJECT. EDP EXPECTS THIS CONTRACT TO BE AWARDED TO A PORTUGUESE COMPANY, WHICH WOULD TAKE A 60 PER. SEGMENT WHILE FOREIGN PARTNER WOULD GET 40 PER. MAGUE IS A LICENSEE OF BOTH BROWN/BOVERI (SWISS) AND FOSTER/WHEELER (U.S.). SOREFAME IS CLOSELY LINKED WITH ALSTHOM (FRANCE), BUT IS ALSO A LICENSEE OF PARSONS (U.K.). IT HAS WORKED WITH GE IN THE PAST, AND COULD PROBABLY WORK WITH GE OR OTHER COMPANIES.

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